

POINT PAPER  
ON  
THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL (NASC)  
AS PROPOSED IN  
THE 1987 NASA AUTHORIZATION BILLS

Current Status: The NASC is being reestablished by both Houses of Congress.

- House version (H.R. 5495) appoints NASA Administrator as Vice Chairman
  - House Staffers' intent:
    - "To elevate the Administrator's status . . ."
    - "Have NASA to develop civil space plans and policy . . ."
- NASC purview over all space policies, plans, programs and activities
  - Previous NASC, with similar purview, required national security space briefings and accesses
  - Established in 1958; abolished in 1973
- House silent on position of Executive Secretary and NASC Staff composition
- The Senate version (S-2714, report not filed yet) silent on Vice Chairman position
  - Includes Secretary of Commerce as member
  - Leaves NASC Executive Secretary and Staff intact
- Differences to be worked in Conference Committee

Issue: Clarification of NASC functions

- If NASC is to be civil/commercial-oriented
  - Articulate such specific language in conference bill
  - Allow NASA to be Vice Chairman
- If intent is to be national security and civil-oriented
  - Insist on independent Executive Secretary
  - Delete Vice Chairman position for the NASA Administrator
  - Include the DCI as a Council member

Course of Action: Modify language in the draft Senate Bill and ensure conference version reflects DoD's concern

- Route recommendations through SAF/LL
- If unsuccessful, then route through DCI or SECDEF channels

ACTION OFFICER: Major Cox/SS-5A/41060  
September 24, 1986, 16:41

**POINT PAPER  
ON  
1987 NASA AUTHORIZATION BILL**

CURRENT STATUS: House S&T Authorization Bill to floor late this week

- Reestablishes a National Aeronautics and Space Council (NASC)
- Authorizes ELV's
  - "Ensure reliable access to space"
  - STS for manned or "unique" missions
- Maintains commercial/foreign STS flight rates at \$74 million/1982
  - STS to be efficient not "cost effective"
  - Flights can not be cheaper than comparable ELV
- Authorizes fourth orbiter construction
- Space Station
  - Doubles R&D funding
  - Deleted previous language prohibiting space weapons and its use for peaceful purposes only

ISSUE: National Aeronautics and Space Council

- Established in 1958 Act
  - Abolished in 1973
  - Presidents preferred other forums (NSC, NASA, DoD, PRC, SIG)
- 1958 and 1987 NASC functions identical; "Advise and assist the President . . ."
- Membership similar
  - 1958: Vice President, State, DoD, NASA, AEC
  - 1987: Vice President, NASA, State, DoD, Chairman Users Advisory Group, and "others"

CONCERN: 1987 Bill appoints NASA Administrator Vice Chairman of NASC

- According to a member of Space Science and Application Subcommittee (House S&T)
  - "Purposeful appointment"
  - "Want NASA to develop civil space plans and policy . . ."
  - "No intent to get into DoD's space business . . ."
  - DOT/DOC excluded in original language
  - IG Space to "parochial and narrow"
- The NASC is not explicitly confined to civil/commercial space activities
  - Allows control over all space activities "conducted by Departments and Agencies of the United States"
  - Overlooks DoD's preimence in national space operations

COURSE OF ACTION:

- Short lead time on House side to modify language
- Companion Senate Authorization Bill expected on the floor in a week
  - Language not available yet
  - Modify NASC language through Senate and Senate/House Conference as required
- Conduct research into DoD's role during previous NASC
- Prepare a more thorough position for SECAF

**ACTION OFFICER:** Major Cox/SS-5A/41060  
22 September 1986

BACKGROUND PAPER  
ON HOUSE (H.R. 5495)  
1987 NASA AUTHORIZATION BILL

The following review highlights unique language and direction contained in the subject Bill. The Bill reflects the Nation's need for a mixed launch fleet to ensure access to space. DoD and NASA launch pricing is not addressed and left to negotiation. The proposed National Aeronautics and Space Council (NASC) would confer substantial authority to the NASA for developing national space plans, policy, and program direction. It is unclear whether this authority is to be focused on civil and commercial efforts or if it includes DoD. The DoD will clarify and seek to modify the language appropriately.

Title I - NASA Authorization

Page 2: \$410 million for manned space station (R&D) (up \$205 million from 1986); \$450,500,000 space transportation capability development (R&D) (up \$13 million from 1986)

Page 3: \$745 million for space shuttle production and operational capability (down \$216 million from 1986). \$1.5 billion for STS operations (down \$200 million from 1986).

Page 7: Funds authorized for space station may not be obligated to reassign technical work without Congressional approval.

Page 11: Funds for Federal research should be geographically distributed.

Page 11: Requests the Astronomical Union to name seven Uranus moons for Challenger crew.

Page 12: Directs NASA to compete SRB production, but does not have to select/qualify an alternate source if it is not cost effective.

Page 12-15: Reestablishes the National Aeronautics and Space Council (NASC) in the Executive Office of the President.

- NASC membership
  - V.P. as Chairman
  - NASA Administrator as Vice Chairman
  - Secretary of State
  - Secretary of Defense
  - Chairman of Users Advisory Group

- Others with statutory space responsibilities
- Function
  - Advise and assist President
  - Survey aeronautical and space programs, plans, policy, etc.
  - Develop comprehensive program of U.S. space activities
  - Fix responsibility for direction of U.S. space activities
  - Provide effective coordination
  - Resolve differences
- Flaws
  - Low-balls DoD role and stature
  - Does not include DOC or DOT
  - Confers national space direction to NASA
  - Avenue to direct DoD space operations, plans, and policy
  - Does it replace IG Space?
  - Statutory or legislative authority?
  - Additional DoD exposure/justifications?
  - No automatic termination period
  - Is it the right forum in view of IG, PFIAB, etc.

Page 15: Administrator to submit by 1 February 1987 long range plan for implementing President's National Commission on Space.

NOTE: The following section was deleted, but appears in Senate version. It also appeared in the 1986 NASA Act. "No civil space station authorized . . . may be used to carry or place in orbit any nuclear weapon or any other weapon of mass destruction, to install any such weapon on any celestial body, or to station any such weapon in space in any other manner. This civil space station may be used only for peaceful purposes."

## Title II - Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Page 16: The Secretary has \$586,000 to carry out the Commercial Space Transportation Act.

### Title III - Space Transportation Recovery

Page 17: Sufficient sums appropriated to launch in first quarter 1988.

Page 17: ". . . Administrator shall . . . construct a fourth . . . orbiter to maximum extent . . . using structural spares . . ."

Page 18: Private funding will be examined.

Page 18: Donations/gifts will be accepted.

Page 19: Sufficient sums appropriated to launch government satellites by expendable vehicles.

Page 19: Expendables and STS used to "ensure reliable access to space"

Page 19: STS primary system . . . for manned missions . . . or missions with unique capabilities . . .

Page 19: STS manifest priorities

- National security
- Significant civil government
- Other government
- Foreign and commercial

### Title IV - Assured Access to Space

Page 20: Congress "finds" reliable access is "critical" to U.S.

Page 20: Administrator submits 10 year schedule of DoD Shuttle Service reimbursements by 2 December 1986.

Page 21: Must provide assurance of reliable access.

Page 21: Demonstrate reliability by honoring existing launch commitments.

Page 21: Use ELV's to demonstrate "reliable and continued" access.

Page 21: Private sector launches are an important complement.

Page 21: U.S. cannot concede commercial launch business to foreign competition.

Page 22: Administration competitively procure ELV services . . . to launch government payloads . . . and . . . carried out to "complement" DoD MLV procurement.

Page 24: Administrator report to Congress by 15 January 1987 a five-year launch service requirements and procurement plan.

Page 24: Commercial/foreign user base price for STS is \$74 million in 1982 dollars and in no case . . . less than price for comparable ELV launch.

Page 24: Applies to flights after 1 January 1988.

ACTION OFFICER: Major Cox/SS-5A/41060  
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